

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #5063A

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A floor mat system comprising a plurality of floor mat sizes each having the same width and each floor mat comprising

a carpet pile backing or carrier consisting essentially of a non-woven fibrous construction weighing not more than about 4.5 ounces per square yard;

a pile material tufted into said carpet pile backing which forms a pile surface on one side of said pile backing; and

a vulcanized rubber backing sheet integrated in contacting relation to the other side of the pile backing such that the pile backing is bonded substantially uniformly across the rubber backing sheet, and wherein said pile material weighs less than about 20 ounces per square yard.

Claim 12 (Canceled):

13. (Currently Amended): A floor mat system comprising a plurality of floor mat sizes each having the same width and each floor mat comprising

a carpet pile backing or carrier consisting essentially of a non-woven fibrous construction;

a pile material tufted into said carpet pile backing which forms a pile surface on one side of said pile backing; and

a vulcanized rubber backing sheet integrated in contacting relation to the other side of the pile backing, wherein the pile backing and rubber backing sheet have substantially matched

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shrinkage character under industrial washing and drying conditions, and wherein each of the pile backing and the rubber backing sheet are characterized by shrinkage of less than about 2.5% when subjected to industrial washing and drying, such that the floor mat is substantially resistant to rippling following industrial washing and drying wherein said backing sheet is an about 60 mil thick solid rubber.

Claims 14-15 (Canceled):

16. (Currently Amended): A floor mat system comprising a plurality of floor mat sizes each having the same width and each floor mat comprising

a carpet pile backing or carrier consisting essentially of a non-woven fibrous construction;

a pile material tufted into said carpet pile backing which forms a pile surface on one side of said pile backing; and

a vulcanized rubber backing sheet integrated in contacting relation to the other side of the pile backing, wherein the pile backing and rubber backing sheet have substantially matched shrinkage character under industrial washing and drying conditions, and wherein each of the pile backing and the rubber backing sheet are characterized by shrinkage of less than about 2.5% when subjected to industrial washing and drying, such that the floor mat is substantially resistant to rippling following industrial washing and drying, wherein each of said floor mats is one of a plurality of floor mats formed simultaneously from a single backing sheet.

21. Claims 17-21 (Canceled):

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22. (Currently Amended): A floor mat system comprising a plurality of floor mat sizes each having the same width and each floor mat comprising

a carpet pile backing or carrier consisting essentially of a non-woven fibrous construction;

a pile material tufted into said carpet pile backing which forms a pile surface on one side of said pile backing; and

a vulcanized rubber backing sheet having a specific gravity in the range of about 0.5 to 0.98 integrated in contacting relation to the other side of the pile backing, wherein the pile backing and rubber backing sheet have substantially matched shrinkage character under industrial washing and drying conditions, and wherein each of the pile backing and the rubber backing sheet are characterized by shrinkage of less than about 2.5% when subjected to industrial washing and drying, such that the floor mat is substantially resistant to rippling following industrial washing and drying, wherein the carpet pile backing weighs from about 3.5 to about 4.5 ounces per square yard, the pile material weighs less than about 20 ounces per square yard, the rubber backing sheet weighs less than about 58 ounces per square yard and each of the mats has a total mat weight of less than 0.60 pounds per square foot.